

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the history of Ormond Beach has many stories in relation to its residents. Two areas specific to the African American community are split between those with ancestors from Liberia and those with ancestors from Sudan. The Liberia neighborhood covers the area near South Washington Street, while those living north of Granada Boulevard live in the Sudan neighborhood. Those individuals who grew up in these areas were part of close-knit communities and families who have lived there for decades, with some as long as 100 years; and

WHEREAS, a few of the citizens living in Liberia and Sudan were concerned about losing the history of their neighborhoods. They came up with the idea of holding an event that would celebrate the African American community in Ormond Beach. The main focus of this event is to share stories about the history of their families and community, and to reminisce about noteworthy areas that have been part of the Liberia and Sudan neighborhoods over the years; and

WHEREAS, 42 years ago, Apostle C.R. Freeman came to Ormond Beach and decided to establish a church at the corner of Live Oak Avenue and South Washington Street, previously the location of a local bar. With the assistance of Mayor Bailey and the City of Ormond Beach, Apostle Freeman was able to make that dream come to life. He has overseen the Church of Jesus Apostolic Faith since that time, until his son took over for him two years ago; and

WHEREAS, Apostle Freeman will turn 86 years old next week and is the oldest living minister in the community. He and his wife, Barbara, have been married for 53 years and have six children, who are all involved in the ministry at the Church of Jesus Apostolic Faith. Apostle Freeman is a deeply spiritual man who has followed God's call wherever it led over the years, sharing his God given gifts and practicing what he preaches. Apostle Freeman spreads God's Word to anyone he meets, and will happily baptize them in our beautiful ocean. Those who know him well call him the "Living Bible" or "Word Man". His wife compares him to John the Baptist and noted that he practices what the Bible says in Acts 2:38: "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit"; and

WHEREAS, the Liberia and Sudan communities would like to honor Apostle C.R. Freeman for giving of himself to his community and making a difference in the lives of those he comes in contact with daily.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Partington, Mayor of the City of Ormond Beach, Florida, do hereby proclaim May 8, 2021, as a day to recognize

APOSTLE C.R. FREEMAN

in the City of Ormond Beach and encourage all residents to join me in thanking Apostle Freeman for his numerous contributions to the communities of Ormond Beach.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and cause the seal of the City of Ormond Beach, Florida, to be affixed this 8th day of May in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-One.



BILL PARTINGTON
Mayor